

West Berkshire Council Report to Theale Parish

10th August 2026

Local Government Reorganisation

The Secretary of State has approved the creation of the Ridgeway Unitary Council as part of the reorganisation of Oxfordshire. It is not the preferred option of West Berks, S Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse councils as parts of the two latter districts will transfer to a “Greater Oxford”. The border between West Berkshire and Reading will remain unchanged

Elections for a shadow council will take place in May 2027, with the existing West Berks Council continuing until 2028. The new council will “vest” in April 2028 and the next elections will be in May 2032.

Local Plan

A new Local Plan is required to be drawn up because the district’s housing target has been increased from 495 to 1,070 homes per year. A consultation into its scope has started. The new plan is scheduled to be adopted by 30th April 2028. South Oxfordshire and Vale of White Horse are also preparing new Local Plans, so efforts are being made to coordinate them.

Mini Recycling Centre

Complaints about fly tipping at the centre continue. I have asked for the CCTV camera to be returned and for improved anti-fly-tipping signage to be installed.

For a more permanent solution, I have asked for the possibility of the centre to be moved further along the road to be investigated. This will have to be done before the Whitehart Meadow housing site can be developed in any case. This would require the anti-traveller gate to be moved, so I have suggested that the crane weights could be moved to protect the otherwise exposed area.

The Falcon

I have been informed by one of the residents that complained that the entrance onto Woodfield Way has been closed up.

Alan Macro

Councillor for Theale

West Berkshire Council

9th August 2026

